## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON:DAM APPROVED BY INR:HSAUNDERS

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R 250220Z MAR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD INFO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PK, AF, US

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN VIEWS ON HORN OF AFRICA SITUATION

- 1. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER HAYAT MEHDI, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE SAUNDERS MARCH 24. COUNTRY DIRECTOR COON WAS ALSO PRESENT.
- 2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION PAKISTANI VIEWS ON THE HORN OF AFRICA. U.S. AND PAKISTANI POLICIES APPEAR TO COINCIDE ON MOST POINTS. PAKISTAN SUPPORTS THE CEASE FIRE, DISENGAGEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES, STATIONING OF NEUTRAL OBSERVERS TO OVERSEE THE CEASE FIRE, AND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. HE WISHED TO PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR A CEASE FIRE WHICH THEY BELIEVE IS NOT BEING FULLY OBSERVED. AFTER ITS ACHIEVEMENT HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO JOIN IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND DEFENSIVE ARMS EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE ALSO URGED U.S. SUPPORT FOR REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS. PAKISTAN SEES INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION AS AN "OMINOUS SIGN", NOT ONLY FOR THE HORN BUT ALSO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. NORTH YEMEN HAS ASKED PAKISTAN FOR ARMS, WHICH YAQUB-KHAN SAW AS EVI-

DENCE OF HOW SERIOUSLY THEY FELT THREATENED BY SOUTH

## YEMEN.

- 3. MR. SAUNDERS COMMENTED THAT OUR POLICIES APPEAR SUBSTANTIALLY TO COINCIDE. HE WAS SURE THAT THE AMBASSADOR UNDERSTOOD OUR POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY SUPPLY IF THE SOMALIS DO NOT RENOUNCE THEIR EXTRA TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. HE NOTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE HAS BEEN TALKING WITH SIAD BARRE DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO HELP THEM WITH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND PERHAPS TO WORK WITH OUR FRIENDS TO PROVIDE DEFENSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT, IF THE SOMALIS COMPLETE THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM OGADEN AND PROVIDE ASSURANCES ON USE OF THE EQUIPMENT ONLY WITHIN THEIR INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDERS. WE, TOO, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND ARE FULLY AWARE OF SAUDI AND NORTH YEMENI CONCERNS.
- 4. MEHDI EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT IF THE CEASE FIRE IS NOT FULLY EFFECTIVE AND NEUTRAL OBSERVERS TAKE SOMETIME TO GET INTO POSITION, THERE MAY BE SERIOUS REPRISALS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE OGADEN.
  MR. SAUNDERS SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF REPORTS OF ANY WIDESPREAD REPRISALS. INDEED THE PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE TRANSFORMING ITSELF INTO A REFUGEE PROBLEM, BUT THIS TOO COULD BE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH ON A LONG TERM BASIS. VANCE

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